

II CORINTHIANS Chapter 1

1. Read verse 3.

- 1.1. How does Paul describe God the Father in this verse?
- 1.2. What does the word “comfort” bring to mind?
- 1.3. How is the word “comfort” typically defined?
- 1.4. The word used for “comfort” in this verse (*paraklesis*, Strong’s G3874) means to come alongside, encourage, strengthen. How does this differ from what is typically thought of as providing comfort for someone?

2. Read verse 4.

- 2.1. What are some ways in which God provides comfort for our afflictions?
- 2.2. Have you ever experienced affliction, or a trial in which God provided immediate deliverance?
 - 2.2.1. Have you ever experienced a trial for which He did not?
- 2.3. How does the Lord come alongside us during our trials? (See Psalm 23:4, Isaiah 41:10, John 14:16, John 16:7.)
- 2.4. In this verse, Paul also explains an important purpose for tribulations in the life of the believer. What is it?
- 2.5. What kind of affliction or tribulation are we able to provide comfort for others, according to verse 4?
- 2.6. Does this mean that we must experience the exact same type of trial or affliction to be able to comfort someone else who is going through a trial?
- 2.7. What or *who* is the source of the comfort with which we comfort others? Why is this important to recognize? (See 2 Corinthians 3:5-6.)



II CORINTHIANS Chapter 1

3. Read verses 8 - 10

- 3.1. Paul refers to a time of tribulation during his missionary travels in Asia. How severe was this trial, based on his description?
- 3.2. What was the outcome, and what did Paul learn from this experience? (verse 10, Phil 4:12-13, Isaiah 40:29)
- 3.3. Can you share about a time when the Lord taught you not to depend upon your own strength during a trial?
 - 3.3.1. How has that impacted your faith?
 - 3.3.2. How has it impacted your ability to endure subsequent trials?
 - 3.3.3. How has it empowered you to provide comfort for others who are enduring tribulation? (See also Romans 5:3-5, James 1:2-4.)